

## SECOND PHASE: 2007 -2009 (JP II)

### Discussion Document

### Progress and General Strategy

(v. 06/12/07)

#### 1. BACKGROUND

The Mediterranean EUWI/WFD Joint Process was first presented during the EU Water Directors Meeting in Dublin, on 23 June 2004. The specific objectives of the first phase (2004 – 2006) of the Mediterranean Joint Process were discussed during 2 technical meetings, organised in Stockholm (Sweden) in August 2004 and in Brindisi (Italy) in September 2004, where the idea of creating synergies between WFD implementation and EUWI was welcomed by the participants, in particular those from partner countries.

Three topics were selected as a first basis of common interest: **“Water Scarcity”**, **“Groundwater Management”** and **“Rural Development & Agriculture”**. Three Mediterranean thematic Working groups were set up to address these issues aiming at the production of specific Mediterranean recommendations and examples, based on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) approaches and objectives and the regional conditions. The drafting process led to the production of specific reports on these issues with an emphasis on the WFD implementation and its major difficulties in the Mediterranean context. Two working groups were directly linked to activities carried out under the umbrella of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) of the WFD: Groundwater (led by GR and COM) and Water Scarcity (led by FR and COM); the third one, focused on linkages between rural development and agriculture and water resource management was indirectly connected to the EU Steering group on Agriculture, through the participation of the leader of the WG, the JRC.

The progress and results of the three thematic Working Groups of the first phase were presented in the last **“Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries”**, in Athens, on 6 & 7 November 2006. The Water Directors **welcomed the results achieved from Phase I** (2004-2006) of the Mediterranean Joint Process, proposed to continue and deepen the topics selected in the first phase and **agreed on the development of a second Phase** (2007-2009). Phase II of the Mediterranean Joint EUWI/WFD Process includes the three Working Groups of the first phase as well as three new WGs on specific focus themes of major interest and concern for the Mediterranean Region: **“Waste Water Reuse”**, **“Shared Water Resources Management”** and **“Water Monitoring”**.

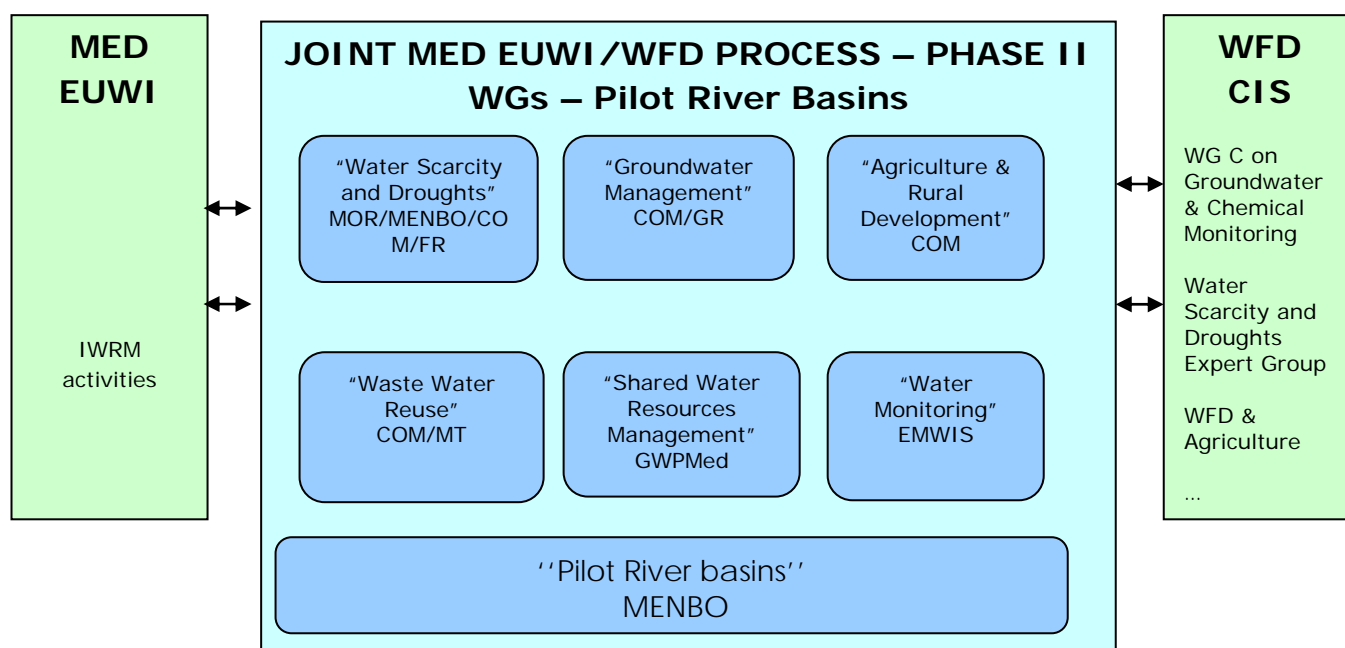
Furthermore, the Water Directors expressed interest for developing **“Mediterranean Pilot Basins”** within the Phase II of the Joint Process, as a tool for practical testing of the recommendations produced. The objective of this activity is to test the applicability of the WFD principles and requirements in selected Pilot Basins in non-EU countries and identify bottlenecks and solutions.

## 2. ORGANISATION OF THE SECOND PHASE

### 2.1 Mediterranean Thematic Working Groups

The six thematic WGs of the Phase II of the Mediterranean Joint EUWI/WFD Process are led and coordinated by EU Member States, partner countries, Mediterranean Organisations (in particular, EMWIS, MENBO, GWP-Med) and the European Commission (JRC, DG ENV).

Linkages with WGs of the EU Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive (WFD CIS) are ensured thanks to EU experts involved in EU WGs dealing with similar issues.



The WGs are composed of water managers, EU and non-EU experts, basin authorities, institutions and stakeholders of the Mediterranean region. Detailed lists of the members of each WG are included in Annex 1. Membership is open to experts and water managers, EU and non-EU, who are ready to actively contribute in the process (notably contribution in drafting).

The main tasks of these groups are, for each issue, a study of the current practices in the region, an analysis of the implications of the WFD or other EU relevant legislations and finally the establishment of recommendations. Detailed mandates of the 6 Med. Thematic WGs are included in Annex 2.

### 2.2 Mediterranean Pilot Basins

Complementary to the EU Pilot River Basins exercise, pilot activities are developed in the southern rim of the Mediterranean. The exercise consists in testing the existing EU guidance as well as recommendations produced by the Med Thematic WGs covering different aspects of the WFD. Concrete testing would allow identification of activities / measures to be implemented for achieving the objectives of the WFD.

To date Pilot Basins activities have been implemented in Sebou river (Morocco) and Litani (Lebanon). Pilot activities have also been carried out by the "Agriculture & Rural Development" WG in Turkey and Tunisia.

## 2.3 Exchange of Information

Exchange of information is a crucial challenge between EU and non-EU water experts. Participation of non-EU experts in EU meetings and workshops as well as participation of EU experts in Mediterranean workshops and conferences strengthen this objective.

The “**Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-how in the Water Sector (EMWIS)**” has developed electronic forums for all the WGs of the JP II, providing a platform for information exchange among water managers in the Mediterranean Region.

## 2.4 Financial Resources

The tasks of the Working Groups are carried out on voluntary basis by the group leaders and their members. Technical support is provided by the European Commission staff members and consultants mandated by the EC. A limited budget is available for facilitating the participation of non-EU experts in working groups meetings. These meetings are as far as possible organized in the framework of broader related events allowing to minimize costs.

Pilot river basins activities are implemented in the framework of several projects:

- SPI-Water a project of 6th Framework Programme of R&D. It started on 1st November 2006 and will run for 2 years. River basins activities are carried out under the workpackage 3 coordinated by MENBO
- Ec'Eau Sebou project funded by the MEDA-Water programme under the activities of its Regional Monitoring and Support Unit –RMSU-. It started in January 2007 for 15 months and is coordinated by WWF Mediterranean Programme.
- Pilot projects funded by COM/JRC

## 3. OBJECTIVES

The **Joint Water Framework Directive / EU Water Initiative process** aims at developing synergies between the two mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of sound water policies. The expertise developed by EU Mediterranean countries implementing the Water Framework Directive can be shared and inspire other Mediterranean countries to develop compatible frameworks according to their particularities and prepare convergence of water-related legislation towards EU standards, as requested by the European Neighborhood Policy. On the other hand, learning from the experiences of non-EU countries dealing with specific problems is very valuable for addressing challenges of the WFD. This could lead to achieving a **Common Vision** for water management, shared among all neighboring states in the Mediterranean Region.

The Med Joint Process encourages the establishment of a network of water experts, volunteers for sharing their own difficulties and ready to get experiences from other basins or countries. The first phase of the JP illustrates the feasibility of working at regional level for preparing national and local activities for the implementation of sound water policies. And more generally, thematic activities at regional level, through the development of Med Working Groups can facilitate the integration of the WFD principles in partner countries' water related policies.

The Water Directors in the last “**Conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Countries**” agreed on “the usefulness and role of the JP as a technical platform for discussing and assessing Mediterranean specificities in water resources management and promoting convergence of water related legislation in partner countries with a view to, inter alia, to further linking the Process to national concerns”.

The second phase of the JP will draw on the achievements of the first results gained during the two first years of development. As regards concrete outcomes of the second phase, the work has two dimensions:

- **Production of specific documents** useful for water resources management in the region, based on the requirements of the EU Water legislation and particularly of the WFD. Mediterranean recommendations could be used for the EU countries as guidance (complementary to the general ones produced by EU WGs) and as technical elements for convergence of legislation for non-EU countries.
- **Promote the development of a Mediterranean expert network.** Building a community of Mediterranean EU and non-EU experts knowledgeable in the specificities of the implementation of the WFD in their region and aware of potential solutions to face existing problems would facilitate the achievements of common environmental objectives and work together towards sustainable development.

#### 4. PROGRESS

Progress achieved since the launching of the Phase II of the Mediterranean Joint EUWI/WFD Process, as regards the activities of the 6 WGs, is described in the following Table

The main documents produced so far are:

- (i) the Groundwater report<sup>1</sup>,
- (ii) the Water Scarcity & Drought report<sup>2</sup> and
- (iii) the Waste Water Reuse report<sup>3</sup>.

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[http://www.semide.net/topics/groundwater/Mediterranean\\_Groundwater\\_Report\\_final\\_150207.pdf](http://www.semide.net/topics/groundwater/Mediterranean_Groundwater_Report_final_150207.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.semide.net/topics/WaterScarcity/8a\\_-\\_Water\\_Scarcity\\_Report\\_1.pdf](http://www.semide.net/topics/WaterScarcity/8a_-_Water_Scarcity_Report_1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterReuse/Final\\_report.doc](http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterReuse/Final_report.doc)

**Progress achieved by the WGs of the Mediterranean Joint EUWI/WFD Process**

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>WATER SCARCITY &amp; DROUGHTS</b>	<b>GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>AGRICULTURE &amp; RURAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>WASTE WATER REUSE</b>	<b>SHARED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>WATER MONITORING</b>
Drafting of Recommendations / Report	Phase II: Detailed content of the final report II was agreed in the meeting of the WG (Seville, June 19 <sup>th</sup> 2007).  Phase I: The report was finalized and edited in April 2007	Phase II: Detailed content of the final report was agreed in the meeting of the WG (Lisbon, 20/9/07)  Phase I: the report (Mediterranean Groundwater Report) was finalised and edited in February 2007.	Due to internal reorganization, the JRC leadership for this WG is no longer in a position to ensure his role. Hence no further practical steps were planned yet.	Phase II: Final report on waste water reuse November 2007, available at: <a href="http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterReuse/Final_report.doc">http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterReuse/Final_report.doc</a>	Phase II: Work-plan and modalities defined. Some delay due to slow feedback from some contributors based on questionnaires prepared. The final report is planned to be ready by October 2008.	Phase II: Work-plan defined to prepare a draft report for June 2008 and the final one by October 2008. Contributions by members are still to be defined
Development of Electronic Forum / Improve Access on Information	Hosted by EMWIS website. Available in: <a href="http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterScarcity">http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterScarcity</a>	Hosted by EMWIS web site. Available in: <a href="http://www.semide.net/topics/groundwater">http://www.semide.net/topics/groundwater</a>	Hosted by EMWIS web site. Available in: <a href="http://www.emwis.net/topics/Rural">http://www.emwis.net/topics/Rural</a>	Hosted by EMWIS web site. Available in: <a href="http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterReuse">http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterReuse</a>	Hosted by EMWIS web site. Available in: <a href="http://www.emwis.net/topics/swrm">http://www.emwis.net/topics/swrm</a>	Hosted by EMWIS web site. Available in: <a href="http://www.emwis.net/topics/watmon">http://www.emwis.net/topics/watmon</a>
Meetings / Exchange of Knowledge	First meeting of the second phase of the WG took place in Seville, 2007-06-19, during the International Drought Forum.	First meeting of the second phase of the WG took place in Lisbon, on 2007-09-20, in the framework of IAH Conference	A meeting for this 2 <sup>nd</sup> phase took place at the JRC Ispra early March 07 and dealt with case study experiences (RBs and agriculture sites)	1st working group meeting, 2007-03-15, Brussels  2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting 2007-10-19, Brussels	Inception Meeting, Athens, 2007-01-17  Workshop on Shared Groundwater Resources in SEE, 2007-11-14/16	1st working group meeting, Madrid: 2007-07-03
Comments			Set up cases for applied research was the purpose to try to get a project proposal together but this could not be finalized yet.		Operational linkages with the Petersberg / Athens Process and GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean were established.	

### **Mediterranean Pilot Basins Activities (see Annex 3)**

Apart from the pilot activities carried out by the Agriculture WG, Med Pilot Basins activities have been developed in the frame of 2 projects.

The first one called Science-Policy Interfacing in support of the Water Framework Directive implementation (Acronym: SPI-Water - Workpackage 3). They are coordinated MENBO. The aim is to develop EU Water Initiative/WFD Joint Process activities for facilitating the implementation of integrated water resources management principles in non-EU countries. The two pilot river basins are Sebou (Morocco) and Litani (Lebanon). Both river basins have written a report describing the physical and administrative framework of the river basins and the status of IWRM implementation (similar article 5 report). A special emphasis was put on the identification of weaknesses.

The actual political situation in Lebanon is very difficult and water is a highly political issue. The work for the staff of the Litani River Authority was very complicate due to this reason and regional and national circumstances made it nearly impossible to obtain certain vital information for the elaboration of the report.

The reports have a high value for the river basin organisations as a document, which summarises the actual status of the river basins. In the frame of the SPI-Water project the documents serve as a base for future goals to reach. The main aim of the report is to be instrumental in matching major water management problems and needs of the river basins with solutions from the EU experiences.

Both documents will be available on the SPI-Water project website ([www.spi-water.eu](http://www.spi-water.eu)) from mid of December.

The second one called Ec'Eau Sebou is developing complementary activities on Sebou basin. The objective is to test the feasibility of the economic analysis as required by the WFD.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

### **Working Groups:**

According the Mandates produced by the 6 WGs, the final reports will be available by October/November 2008.

The final reports of the 6 WGs is planned to be part of the background documentation at the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Water, planned for late 2008.

### **Pilot basins:**

Two technical visits for both pilot river basins to EU river basins will be organised. The selection of these will be done, considering the results of searching the web portal and identifying EU river basins, which confront similar problems as the non-EU river basins.

A workshop focused on Litani and Sebou river basins will be organised the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008 in Fez, Morocco. Invited will be especially water managers from Morocco and Lebanon but also participant from other north-African countries will be welcome.

## **6. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

- Progress of the 6 WGs of the JP II achieved so far.
- Approval of the new mandates of the WGs (Water Monitoring, Groundwater Management).
- It would be appropriate to discuss the proposal of assigning another coordinator for the WG Agriculture and Rural Development. The lack of available funding for the WG risk to severely hamper its functioning and options for solutions could be discussed
- Guidance for the next steps of the 6 WGs of the JP II. Expected results from the second phase. On which issues (dissemination of results, linkages with other existing WGs or Initiatives, more meetings, etc.) the work of the thematic WGs have to be more focused?
- Linkages with existing activities/initiatives: How the linkages with relative, existing activities can be established and ensured, in order to avoid overlapping?
- How to ensure wider dissemination of the results achieved and lessons learned from working groups and pilot basins both at regional and national level? It is of pivotal importance to share results and best practises at a pan Mediterranean level, including sharing between WGs and Pilot Basins

## ANNEX 1

### LIST OF MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUPS Med Joint Process WATER SCARCITY WORKING GROUP

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## **ANNEX 2**

### **MANDATES OF THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS**

1. Water Scarcity and Droughts:

[http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterScarcity/JP\\_II\\_Mandate\\_WG\\_Water\\_Scarcity.pdf](http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterScarcity/JP_II_Mandate_WG_Water_Scarcity.pdf)

2. Groundwater Management:

[http://www.semide.net/topics/groundwater/MED\\_EUWI\\_Groundwater\\_WG\\_2nd\\_Phase\\_TORs.pdf](http://www.semide.net/topics/groundwater/MED_EUWI_Groundwater_WG_2nd_Phase_TORs.pdf)

3. Agriculture & Rural Development:

[http://www.emwis.net/initiatives/medeuwi/JP/JP2/JP\\_II\\_Mandate\\_WG\\_Agriculture.pdf](http://www.emwis.net/initiatives/medeuwi/JP/JP2/JP_II_Mandate_WG_Agriculture.pdf)

4. Waste Water Reuse:

[http://www.emwis.net/initiatives/medeuwi/JP/JP2/JP\\_II\\_Mandate\\_Wastewater\\_Reuse.pdf](http://www.emwis.net/initiatives/medeuwi/JP/JP2/JP_II_Mandate_Wastewater_Reuse.pdf)

5. Shared Water Resources Management:

[http://www.emwis.net/topics/swrm/TWRM\\_mandate\\_FINAL.doc](http://www.emwis.net/topics/swrm/TWRM_mandate_FINAL.doc)

<http://www.gwpmed.org>

6. Water Monitoring:

[http://www.emwis.net/topics/watmon/Monitoring\\_mandate\\_draft\\_20070710.doc](http://www.emwis.net/topics/watmon/Monitoring_mandate_draft_20070710.doc)

## ANNEX 3

### Pilot River Basins activities

#### SPI-WATER

The Spi-Water project has 3 aims:

1. Analysis and evaluation of projects in the field of river basin (RB) management that are of potential use for the WFD implementation. If necessary the information will be transformed into less scientific language suitable for non specialist users.
2. A reliable and user friendly web based tool to support the science-policy interface regarding the needs on the implementation of the WFD will be established ⇨ the WISE-RTD web portal.
3. Further adapt EU Water Initiative/WFD Joint Process activities to help non-EU countries to better benefit from the knowledge accumulated by EU-countries during the implementation of WFD.
  - a. To review water policy experiences in non-EU countries and to compare with the current WFD practices; to perform a need assessment of 2 Mediterranean RBs (Sebou in Morocco and Litani in Lebanon).
  - b. To study the applicability of WFD practices to non-EU countries and to identify activities for facilitating its implementation in non-EU countries.
  - c. To disseminate the obtained results to non-EU countries.

In the frame of Aim 3 partners have written two reports: 1) Report on IWRM needs in selected-non EU countries. Review of recent EUWI/WFD Joint Process activities and related practices (research activities) and 2) Description on selected non-EU river basins Litani (Lebanon) and Sebou (Morocco). Both available on the project website:

- Report 1) presents recent practices regarding the transfer of knowledge acquired in EU countries to support the implementation of IWRM principles in Mediterranean non-EU countries. Several initiatives have been analysed to highlight their strong and weak points.
- Report 2) is composed of two reports about the pilot river basins (RB) Litani (Lebanon) and Sebou (Morocco). The reports include a general overview of the physical, climatic, biotic and administrative framework in both RBs as well as the status of IWRM implementation with particular emphasis on weaknesses. The reports are instrumental in describing and identifying major water management problems and pressing needs of the RBs and matching those with solutions from the EU experiences.

Once the main problems and most pressing needs in both pilot RBs have been identified WISE-RTD is used to search for relevant information on projects, field study documents and tools, that may be considered in resolving the needs/problems. The collection of experiences of the pilot RBs using WISE-RTD serves to adapt the web portal to the needs of non-EU countries.

In the frame of the project two technical visits to EU RBs will be organised. The selection of these will be done, considering the results of searching the web portal and identifying EU RBs which confront similar problems as the non-EU RBs.

In the second year of the SPI-Water project a special emphasis will be put on the dissemination of the obtained results to non-EU countries.

## Ec'Eau Sebou project

Ec'Eau Sebou project is a pioneer experience in the Mediterranean non EU countries in using the Water Framework Directive tools and principles to test their applicability and potential use for facilitating integrated water resource management in a pilot basin (namely the **Sebou basin pilot basin in Morocco**). The project is using the economic elements of the WFD which are essential for the effective application of the key principles of Integrated Water Resource Management. At this aim the main steps required by Article 5 of the WFD are covered, namely:

- The analysis of the economic importance of water uses
- The development of trend scenarios in the Sebou basin
- The analysis of the water pricing and cost recovery policies
- The cost-effectiveness analysis as support to the selection of measures and projects allowing to achieve environmental goals (to be defined in the case of the basin of Sebou) at lower cost
- The cost-benefit analysis, considering in particular the environmental benefit associated to the improvement of the quality of the aquatic environment.

The progresses currently are the following:

- a. The draft reports of: **pressures and impacts**, economic importance of water uses, pressures and impacts, water pricing and cost recovery have been produced;
- b. A methodology for assessing the trend scenarios have been developed and the **report is in the final revision stage**;
- c. A list of measures have been identified and their cost-effectiveness is under analysis;
- d. A high number of meetings with the various members of the steering committee have been held;
- e. A Steering Committee representing all the administrations directly or indirectly involved in water resources management and **NGO** has been set up and two meetings organized.

The next steps of the project are:

- f. Finalization of analysis and reports
- g. Dissemination of results at Morocco level (publication and workshop)

A second phase of the project has been already shaped building on the preliminary results of the project. It will focus on depth assessment of the ecological status of the river basin as a baseline to develop an operational monitoring network of the ecological status, and a more accurate programme of measure (in comparison to the one developed in the first phase)

The project is strictly interlinked to SPI-Water project which has provided the characterization of the river basin as a background for the economic analyses.

The project is implemented by WWF Mediterranean Programme and the Sebou basin agency with the technical expertise of ACTeon.